lated areas of the country with a population density, as per 1981 census, of about 600 per sq km The transmitter will benefit about 32 97 lakh predominantly rural, backward area population

Shortage of Raw Material for Mini Steel Plants

1984 SHRI ANBARASU ERA Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a ban for the import of iron scrap;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the mini steel plants are facing acute shortage of raw materials due to this ban,

(c) if so, the steps taken to avoid the closure of mini steel plants, and

(d) if no steps are being taken, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) No, Sir

(b) The reduced availability of free foreign exchange with the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) and the high cost of steel melting scrap imported directly by the users did lead to a fall in scrap imports which has affected the production in the mini steel plants

(c) Government have reduced the customs duty on carbon steel melting scrap from 35% to 10% which will make it easier for the mini steel plants to import scrap. A major thrust is also being given to increasing production of sponge iron in the country to improve the domestic availability of raw materials for the min steel plants

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Power Deterioration in Assam Due to Non-Availability of Spare Parts

1985 SHRI PROBIN DEKA Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the power position in Assam is deteriorating following non-availability of spare parts, and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the power position there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) (a) and (b) According to the Assam State Electricity Board power supply position in Assam was not satisfactory from 14 2 1992 to 29 2 1992 partly due to non-availability of spare parts and outage of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station units due to tube leakage The situation has since improved with the re-commissioning of the shut down unit

[*Translation*]

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh

1986 DR LAL BAHADUR RAWAL Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any scheme for the expansion of telephone exchanges in various districts of Uttar Pradesh particularly Aligarh, and

(b) if so, the names of the telephone exchanges proposed to be modernise and expanded in the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 31.12.91, there were 1262 telephone exchanges in the state of Uttar Pradesh. These were of the following types:

(1)	Manual	–	22
(2)	Electro–mechanical	–	750
(3)	Electronic	–	490

It is proposed to modern the telephone exchanges in the following manner:

(1) All the 22 manual exchanges are proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges by 31.3.1994. The list of such exchanges is given in the Statement attached.

(2) All the electro–mechanical exchanges are also planned to be replaced by electronic exchanges on the expiry of their life subject to the availability of equipment.

All these exchanges are proposed to be expanded as the demand for more connections grow, subject to the availability of equipment

STATEMENT

List of Manual Exchanges in U.P. Circle

Sl. No.	*Name of the Station*	*District*
1.	Khalilabad	Basti
2.	Thampur	Bijnore
3.	Nazibabad	Bijnore
4.	Seohara	Bijnore
5.	Gulaothi	Bulandshahar
6.	Rishikesh	Dehradun
7.	Kaimganj	Farrukhabad
8.	Chauri Chaura	Gorakhpur
9.	Shahganj	Jaunpur
10.	Jhansi	Jhansi
11.	Sirsaganj	Ferozabad
12.	Amroha	Moradabad

Sl. No.	*Name of the Station*	*District*
13.	Chandausi	Moradabad
14.	Gajraula	Moradabad
15.	Sambhal	Moradabad
16.	Shamli	Muzaffarnagar
17.	Haldwani	Nainital
18.	Kathgodam	Nainital
19.	Kotdwar	Pauri Garhwal
20.	Bilaspur	Rampur
21.	Tehri	Tehri–Garhwal
22.	Khekra	Meerut

[*English*]

Development of Tourism in West Bengal

1987. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals are pending with the Union Government for development of tourism in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken for clearance of the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. the proposals which are pending for central financial assistance include the construction of a Tourist Complex one each at Chalsa and Bankura, wayside facilities at Burdwan and Madarihat and a Beach Resort at Shankarpur. These project proposals received from the State Government were incomplete and were, therefore, sent back for necessary details/ clarifications.

Of the above, only proposal for the construction of tourist lodge at Chalsa has been received back on 3rd March, 1992 and the same is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

National Policy on C.DOT Plants in the country

1988. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the national policy under which C-Dot plants are being set up in the country;